

26 February 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Speaking Engagement with the American Association of Newspaper Editors

1. I would keep your pitch simply focused on the issue of protecting intelligence which is essential to our national security interest. I would not dabble off into leaks but challenge the editors to carry out their responsibility towards our national interests balanced against their commitment to keep the American public informed. Their commitment, however, does not mean that such information should decimate our intelligence capabilities and apparatus.

2. I would speak to the many times that newspapers do show restraint in certain issues, such as waiting to expose a victim's name until the next of kin are notified. Use the example that Leo Cherne did of the Boston Globe's sitting on a story regarding cocaine use by the Boston Patriots until after the season was over. Certainly the urge to refrain should be far greater in protecting our national security than the reputation of some football junkies. I would not expand your concern into conduct of diplomacy but simply center it around your own statutory obligations, which the media constantly assails in their publication of sources and methods. To attempt to expand it will throw you into a debate about the American public's right to know how our country intends to deal in its foreign relationships and the public's consequent need to be informed about our policy deliberations.

3. I would try to set up examples of how intelligence information pertinent to the public's needs is released through NSC, State, Commerce, Treasury, or Defense channels in a fashion that protects our sources yet at the same time keeps the public informed. I believe a little bit of research can produce a wealth of interesting topics.

4. I would avoid getting into discussing the polygraph issue, at least at your initiative. Instead, I would begin to put the burden on the editors to exercise some discipline in their journalistic reporting to help you carry out your obligations to protect American security interests.



John N. McMahon

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Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

① - DDCI

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI	X			
3	EXDIR	X			
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI	X			
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/OLL				
14	D/PAO	X			
15	D/PERS				
16	VC/NIC				
17	ES		X		
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		17 Mar 86 Date			

Remarks

To All: This speech would take place on 9 April.
Given DCI's travel schedule, please have your inputs
to him by 17 March.

Executive Secretary
21 Feb 86

Date

STAT

Executive Registry
86- 0762

21 February 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Executive Director
Deputy Director for Intelligence
Director of Public Affairs

FROM: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Speaking Engagement--American Association of Newspaper Editors

1. I have accepted an invitation to speak to the American Association of Newspaper Editors--some 800 to 900 editors of daily papers--at their convention in Washington in April. I asked Ben Bradlee to arrange this appearance. I want to address the subject of the media and national security focusing largely on intelligence that will embrace unauthorized disclosures, sources and methods, and the conduct of diplomacy and relationships with other countries and policies in making intelligence judgments available to the public and the legislature related to ongoing public issues.

2. I would appreciate it if each of you would think a little about what would be most useful for this occasion and give me your thoughts.



William J. Casey